

Appl. No. 10/024,783  
Amendment and/or Response  
Reply to Office action of 22 July 2003

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REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 11-20 are newly added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority documents.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to state whether the drawings are acceptable.

New dependent claims 14-18 are added to at least partially restore the original range of claims that existed before multiple dependencies were removed in the preliminary amendment. No new matter is added. New dependent claims 11-13 are added to create claims corresponding to claims 2, 3, and 6, but dependent upon claim 10, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable. No new matter is added. Claim 6 is rewritten in independent form, including all limitations of its base claim; no new matter is added, and the scope of claim 6 remains unchanged. New dependent claims 19 and 20 correspond to claims 2 and 3, but dependent upon claim 6.

The Office action notes that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim (9) and any intervening claims (none). Claim 10 is correspondingly amended herein, and newly added claims 11-13 are dependent upon claim 10.

The Office action rejects:

claims 1, 4, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Sturm et al. (USP 6,087,196, hereinafter Sturm);

claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sturm and Burrows (USP 5,980,976);

claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sturm and Feldman et al. (USP 5,753,381);

claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sturm and Hung et al. (USP 5,608,287); and

claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sturm. The applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

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Independent claims 1 and 2, upon which claims 3-5, and 7-8 (and 14-18) depend, specifically claim an electroluminescent device having electrodes comprising metal or metal alloys that are ink-jet printed in molten form.

The Office action acknowledges, with regard to allowable claim 10, that the prior art fails to show or suggest the ink-jet printing of molten metal to form electrodes of an electroluminescent device. Because independent claims 1 and 2 specifically claim electrodes of metal or metal alloy that are ink-jet printed in molten form, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the above rejections.

The Office action rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sturm and Duineveld et al. (WO 01/41229, hereinafter Duineveld). The Duineveld application was published on 7 June 2001. The applicants claim a priority date of 22 December 2000 under 35 U.S.C. 119, which priority has been certified and acknowledged. This priority date is prior to the publication date of Duineveld, and thus Duineveld is not available as prior art to this invention. The applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claim 6, which has been rewritten in independent form, including each limitation of its original parent claim.

The applicants note that the Office action fails to address dependent claim 7, which is dependent upon claim 1. The applicants respectfully request the Examiner's consideration of claim 7. If a subsequent Office action is deemed warranted, other than a Notice of Allowability, the applicants respectfully request that this subsequent action be a *non-final* Office action that addresses each of the applicants' claims, including claim 7.

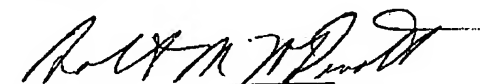
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In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

A credit-card authorization form is attached in the amount of \$88 for the additional independent claim, per 37 CFR 1.16(b).

Respectfully submitted,



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